2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

6 May 2010
English
Original: Chinese

New York, 3-28 May 2010

Nuclear-weapon-free zones

Working paper submitted by China

The Chinese delegation hereby requests the following elements be included in the report of Main Committee II and the final document of the Review Conference:

1. The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones is of great significance in promoting nuclear disarmament, preventing proliferation of nuclear weapons and enhancing regional and global peace and security. It also constitutes an important step towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

2. The guidelines on establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones adopted by the United Nations Disarmament Commission in 1999 should be faithfully observed.

3. The international community should actively support efforts by relevant countries to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of consultations among themselves and voluntary agreements in light of actual regional conditions.

4. Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, the international community should encourage non-nuclear-weapon States to continue to put forward proposals on establishing new nuclear-weapon-free zones and make efforts in this regard.

5. The international community should faithfully implement the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference and support efforts by the countries in the Middle East to establish a zone free of nuclear weapons as well as other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. China believes that great importance should be attached to relevant proposals by the countries in the Middle East to implement the resolution at an early date.

6. The nuclear-weapon States should undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones and conclude an international legal instrument in this regard.

7. All nuclear-weapon States should respect the legal status of nuclear-weapon-free zones and sign and ratify the protocols of relevant treaties on nuclear-weapon-free zones. Concrete measures should be taken to implement the security assurances stipulated in all nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties and relevant protocols.

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2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

6 May 2010
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Security assurances

Working paper submitted by China

The Chinese delegation hereby requests that the following elements be included in the report of Main Committee I and the final document of the Review Conference:

1. Pending the realization of the objective of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, all nuclear-weapon States should unequivocally undertake not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones.

2. Security assurances by nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States are conducive to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. A universal, unconditional and legally binding international legal instrument on this issue should be concluded as soon as possible.

3. Nuclear-weapon States should diminish the role of nuclear weapons in their national security policies, and refrain from listing any countries as targets of nuclear strikes or targeting the nuclear weapons under their control at any country.

4. Nuclear-weapon States should support the efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States to establish nuclear-weapon-free zones and should undertake corresponding obligations in a legally binding manner.

5. The Conference on Disarmament should start substantive work on concluding an international legal instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States at an early date.

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2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

11 May 2010

Original: English

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Working paper submitted by Belgium, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and Turkey for consideration at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

I. Introduction

1. We are determined to uphold the viability of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its central role in the international non-proliferation regime, the pursuit of nuclear disarmament with the objective of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of the atom.

2. We are convinced that there are several reasons why the international community should make sure that the 2010 Review Conference will be successful in the sense that new concrete measures are agreed upon to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime. These reasons include the following:

- We are resolved to build upon the momentum that was created by the high-level Security Council meeting leading to the adoption of Council resolution 1887 (2009), the signing of a new START agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, the United States Nuclear Posture Review and the Nuclear Security Summit. We believe this momentum needs to be reflected in all areas of the Treaty.
- The greater interest in nuclear energy poses new challenges, in particular if States were not to comply with the international non-proliferation commitments, including the current verification standard, and were not to uphold the highest level of nuclear safety and security.
- In view of this we are committed to further strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty regime and will work hard towards common agreement for a forward-looking agenda for the coming review cycle in order to promote the full implementation of all provisions of the Treaty. The present paper is meant to contribute to these efforts.

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disarmament, to which all States parties are committed under article VI of the Treaty, is one of the major achievements of the Treaty process. This undertaking must now become operational, building also on article VI and the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament agreed upon in 2000.

(a) We welcome the steps the two major nuclear-weapon States have taken so far to reduce their nuclear arsenals through the signing of the new START agreement. We recall the importance of the principles of irreversibility, verifiability and transparency.

(b) We call upon the United States of America and the Russian Federation to hold further disarmament negotiations, as soon as possible, aimed at further reducing their nuclear arsenals, including non-strategic nuclear weapons, as a concrete step towards their elimination.

(c) We also call upon all nuclear-weapon States to engage in a similar nuclear disarmament process in conformity with their Non-Proliferation Treaty obligations. We stress the need for policies and strategies of States parties to be consistent with these processes.

(d) We also call upon all nuclear-weapon States to pursue a policy of further downgrading the role of nuclear weapons in their security strategies and military doctrines. It will pave the way for and facilitate the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as foreseen under the Treaty.

(e) We maintain a long-standing commitment to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as an integral part of our overall security policy. Treaty implementation in the broader political context is critical to our work to enhance stability and security by lowering arms levels and increasing military transparency and mutual confidence.

(f) We encourage States that possess nuclear weapons to publish their respective holdings of those weapons, both active and in reserve.

(g) Recognizing that progress has been made with regard to the commitments of the 2000 Review Conference on concrete measures to reduce the operational status of nuclear-weapon systems, we call for further progress in this area.

(h) We welcome initiatives and renewed efforts by nuclear-weapon States to place nuclear material no longer required for military purposes under the IAEA verification regime and encourage further progress in this area.

III. Nuclear non-proliferation

(i) Nuclear non-proliferation is essential for maintaining peace and security. Non-proliferation is a precondition for achieving the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. Current and continued challenges to the international non-proliferation regime and their security risks for the international community as a whole, it is imperative to strengthen the non-proliferation dimension of the Treaty.

(j) We recognize that IAEA is the sole multilateral body for administering international safeguards.

(b) We consider the IAEA comprehensive safeguards agreements and the Additional Protocol to constitute the current verification standard and call upon all States parties which have not done so to ratify and implement these vital instruments without delay.

(c) The entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) will form an integral part of a strengthened and more credible non-proliferation regime. We urge all States which have not yet done so to swiftly sign and ratify CTBT. A special responsibility in this endeavour lies with the annex 2 States.

(d) Commencing without any further procedural delay negotiations on an internationally and effectively verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty, and reaching agreement on such a treaty, will offer a vital contribution to the global non-proliferation architecture. Pending such agreement, we call for an immediate moratorium on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

(e) The Security Council, in its resolution 1540 (2004), calls upon all States members of the United Nations to establish and enforce effective domestic legislation to prevent the proliferation of material and technology for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We firmly urge all States to implement resolution 1540 (2004) and the subsequent resolutions of the Council in good faith.

(f) Export controls play a crucial role in the implementation of the non-proliferation obligations of States parties. We welcome increased transparency between export control mechanisms and their contribution to international export control cooperation.

(g) Universal approaches can be usefully complemented by cooperative efforts and initiatives, such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, as well as regional fora for action towards the implementation of non-proliferation obligations.

IX. Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

1. In accordance with article IV of the Treaty and article II of the statute of IAEA, we reaffirm our support for the inalienable right of all parties to the Treaty to develop research, produce and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with articles I, II and III of the Treaty.

2. A significant number of States have expressed an interest in obtaining the benefits of nuclear power, while several more are expanding their existing nuclear programmes. Additional peaceful applications of nuclear energy in the areas of health, agriculture, environmental protection and industry are also being used and discovered. In the light of this growing interest in the peaceful applications of nuclear energy, we are convinced that States parties must also address serious proliferation and non-compliance challenges. In managing nuclear power programmes, Governments should seek to ensure the maximum appropriate transparency. Thus, we reconfirm the value of the Treaty and the need to preserve the balance between the pillars of the Treaty, and between its rights and obligations.

(a) We recognize the importance for the international non-proliferation regime of promoting a global nuclear, radiation and waste safety culture and the need for measures to improve nuclear security. We welcome the important role played by IAEA in this field, through its various programmes and initiatives.

(b) We underline and support the role of IAEA in assisting developing countries in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and applications in the areas of health, agriculture, environmental protection and industry through the development of effective programmes aimed at improving their scientific, technological and regulatory capabilities. IAEA technical cooperation programmes also play a relevant role in assuring the peaceful use of nuclear energy and reducing the associated proliferation risks.

(c) We believe that the national implementation not only of a comprehensive safeguards agreement but also of the IAEA Additional Protocol, based on the model text of INFCIRC/540 (Corrected), which is a fundamental component and instrument of the international regime against nuclear proliferation, provides credible assurances about the non-diversion of nuclear materials as well as the absence of undeclared nuclear materials and activities.

(d) We believe that the development of multilateral nuclear fuel supply mechanisms can have a particular relevance for the global nuclear non-proliferation regime by ensuring that nuclear fuel cycles will be exclusively used for peaceful purposes. They are cost-effective on the economic side and respond to the needs of States related to the growing interest in nuclear energy. The impartiality of IAEA is a key factor in giving credibility to, and raising the profile of, multilateral nuclear fuel supply mechanisms. We call upon all States to deepen the discussion on setting up an international nuclear fuel bank under the auspices of IAEA.

V. Negative security assurances and nuclear-weapon-free zones

(a) Legally binding negative security assurances enhance international peace and security, and contribute to consolidating the non-proliferation regime. Regional nuclear-weapon-free zones established on the basis of 1999 guidelines of the United Nations Disarmament Commission provide an important tool to advance the implementation of the Treaty.

(b) We are convinced that legally binding security assurances provided by the five nuclear-weapon States to the non-nuclear-weapon States would strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and we advocate the commencement of negotiations to that end. Pending legally binding assurances, we call upon all nuclear-weapon States to further strengthen their unilateral security assurances. We welcome the statement on the negative security assurances made by the United States of America in the framework of the Nuclear Posture Review and see it as a step towards strengthened security assurances within the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

(c) In the context of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, we attach great importance to the development of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, as elaborated in the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its substantive session in 1999. Implementing nuclear-weapon-free zones is a way of enhancing negative security assurances at a regional basis and contributes to the

strengthening of the Treaty, as it facilitates the process of the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

16. We welcome recent progress in the establishment of regional nuclear-weapon-free zones. We remain committed to the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East and call for concrete steps to be taken to this end. We support convening an international conference on this topic.

VI. Nuclear terrorism and illicit trafficking in nuclear material

17. Nuclear terrorism and illicit trafficking in nuclear material represent considerable security threats that need to be adequately addressed also at the international level. We recall that a key objective of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) is to prevent non-State actors from acquiring nuclear weapons as well as relevant nuclear materials and technologies. We call for a comprehensive and mutually reinforcing approach, using all available means:

(a) International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism;

(b) IAEA, including the nuclear security programme, the amended Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources;

(c) Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism;

(d) Proliferation Security Initiative;

(e) Voluntary efforts, where appropriate, by States to convert their civilian nuclear research reactors from using highly enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU) when technically and economically feasible.

VII. Nuclear Security Summit

18. We welcome the Nuclear Security Summit and the adoption of the Communiqué and Work Plan, and supports the overall objective to secure all vulnerable nuclear material within four years. The Summit has laid the groundwork for further action in this field and the follow-up in 2012 is important.

VIII. Strengthening the consultative mechanism for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

19. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a cornerstone of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime. Mindful of the 1995 decision on strengthening the Treaty review process, the Treaty warrants a substantial and continuous follow-up.

(a) We welcome the further development of a consultative mechanism for the Treaty and are ready for consideration and the working out of options for an

institutional framework, which would provide States parties with the ability to react adequately and in a timely manner to developments and challenges.

(b) While fully recognizing the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, States parties should urgently consult upon receipt of a notification by a State party of its intention to withdraw from the Treaty. In this context, we reaffirm the view that a State remains responsible under international law for the violations of the Treaty committed prior to its withdrawal;

(c) We call upon all States parties to actively use the Treaty meetings, including through regular reporting, and to contribute to this process by increasing transparency and accountability;

(d) We welcome the contribution of civil society in promoting the principles and objectives of the Treaty. The 2010 Review Conference should acknowledge this indispensable contribution and look for more effective interaction.

IX. Securing a positive and forward-looking outcome of the NPT 2010 Review Conference

20. We call for the adoption of a comprehensive and balanced final document, which reaffirms the overall objective of a safer world without nuclear weapons. We call for the adoption of a concrete programme of work up to 2015 covering the three pillars of the Treaty. Such a programme of work should identify benchmarks holding States parties accountable for their implementation.

2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Nuclear power development: meeting the world's energy needs and fulfilling article IV

Working paper submitted by Canada, France and the Republic of Korea

1. In the past few years, nuclear power has generated renewed interest as a way of meeting the world's energy needs, as recently shown, inter alia, by the Beijing Conference in April 2009,[1] the Paris Conference in March 2010[2] and the resolutions on nuclear power applications adopted since 2006 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).[3] These new perspectives are highly relevant to the implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Indeed, power applications are an essential part of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy foreseen in article IV, and international cooperation in this field is a major component of the Treaty's implementation. A large number of countries strongly support the development of peaceful uses for power and other applications, and are committed to working towards the fullest implementation of article IV.

2. The Treaty acknowledges the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, in conformity with articles I and II of the Treaty. This underscores the importance of strict observance of article III in order to ensure compliance with articles I and II and the overarching non-proliferation objectives of the Treaty. Exercising the right to the benefits of nuclear energy must be available to all States pursuing in good faith a nuclear programme for peaceful purposes in accordance with their international obligations.

Growing world energy needs

3. A dramatic increase is foreseen in world energy needs in the twenty-first century. Meeting these needs is essential as energy supply is a condition of the world's sustainable development, and particular consideration must be given to the needs of developing countries. In this perspective, a diverse portfolio including all

[1] International Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Energy in the 21st Century, Beijing, 20-22 April 2009.

[2] International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy, Paris, 8 and 9 March 2010.

[3] GC(50)/RES/13, sect. B, GC(51)/RES/14, sect. B.1, GC(52)/RES/12, sect. B.1 and GC(53)/RES/13, sect. B.1.

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energy sources and, in particular, the responsible use of nuclear energy will be needed to allow access to sustainable energy and electricity resources in all regions of the world.

4. At the same time, the essential need to ensure sustainable development of the world is more and more widely recognized as an absolute priority. The health of the planet's environment and energy security are serious concerns. Managing global environment issues in a sustainable manner, including by curbing air pollution and addressing the risk of climate change, must be regarded as a priority by all Governments.

The potential of nuclear technology to meet world energy needs

5. The renewed growth of nuclear power and its potential to help meet the world's energy needs have been broadly recognized, inter alia, in the resolutions of the IAEA General Conference and in the concluding statement of the Beijing Conference, which affirmed that nuclear energy, as a proven, clean, safe, competitive technology, will make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of humankind throughout the twenty-first century and beyond. Many countries have been conducting nuclear power programmes for several decades, as a result of which nuclear power currently provides more than 15 per cent of world electricity supply, and they have undertaken to pursue the development of their capacities and to promote the worldwide development of nuclear power to meet energy needs.

6. In addition, the Paris Conference confirmed that nuclear power receives increasing interest from a number of countries currently without nuclear power, which have plans for or are considering developing their use of this energy source. In particular, many developing countries see nuclear power as a useful option in their energy mix to diversify sources of supply and enhance security in support of their socio-economic development. More than 60 States have declared their interest in nuclear power.

7. The Beijing and Paris Conferences, and the General Conference resolutions have also recognized that nuclear power can make a crucial input to the sustainable development strategies of many countries, as nuclear power does not generate air pollution or greenhouse gas emissions.

8. In addition to electricity production, water desalination can be an important resource for countries facing problems of supply of potable water, and nuclear production of hydrogen offers a major potential for the development of hydrogen-based systems.

9. Nuclear power is an advanced and proven technology, with a record of safe and reliable production and improving performance. It enjoys a robust industrial and market base, with industrial companies from many countries in all regions of the world involved in global energy technology markets. The market for equipment and fuel is diversified and effective. In particular, the uranium market is based on a diversified geographical base, which includes developing countries.

10. Nuclear power is economically competitive under many circumstances. It contributes to the stability of energy prices and reduces dependence on fluctuating fossil fuel prices, as fuel and operating expenses represent a smaller part of the total cost of nuclear power, as compared with other energy sources. Nuclear power is a

long-term investment for sustainable development and its financing must be considered from this perspective. In particular, nuclear power should be given equal access to international financing mechanisms supporting sustainable socio-economic development.

The framework for nuclear energy development

11. The development of nuclear energy takes place in a robust international framework, in which the Treaty and adherence to international norms play a central role. For the responsible development of nuclear energy, non-proliferation, safeguards, safety and security must be issues of primary importance.

12. It must proceed in a manner ensuring non-proliferation objectives and international peace and security. Article IV of the Treaty provides a framework for meeting these objectives. The exercise by a non-nuclear-weapon State of its right to develop the activities necessary to enjoy the benefits of nuclear power is subject to the respect of its non-proliferation commitments under articles I, II and III of the Treaty and to the pursuit in good faith of peaceful purposes.

13. As proliferation risks and non-compliance situations are a major challenge today in the implementation of the Treaty, preventing proliferation must be a paramount priority for all parties. The IAEA safeguards have played a central role in ensuring the compliance of States with their non-proliferation obligations, and it is therefore essential to the sustained utilization of nuclear energy that IAEA maintain effective safeguards on nuclear material and activities of States. States should also pay due attention to export control of nuclear material, equipment and technology and exert particular vigilance with regard to sensitive nuclear material, equipment and technology with proliferation potential.

14. In order to maintain the highest nuclear safety levels, all States having or developing a nuclear power programme should give due consideration to nuclear safety and, in particular, to the application of the IAEA safety standards. They should take into account the importance of international cooperation for the enhancement of the nuclear safety regime and of nuclear safety worldwide and, in this regard, adhere to the international safety conventions concluded under the auspices of IAEA.

15. As nuclear security is a national responsibility, all States must make the necessary arrangements to ensure the highest level of security of nuclear material and facilities. They should also give high priority to international cooperation, which provides common references and benchmarks and facilitates capacity-building and continuous enhancement, in particular through adhering to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its Amendment.

16. The development of nuclear power must take due account of public acceptance issues and be carried out in a manner that addresses the expectations and concerns of citizens.

17. States developing a nuclear power programme should adhere to a convention on civil nuclear liability currently in force or set up a national regime based upon the principles established by the international instruments.

18. Solutions exist for the safe and secure management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, and research and development is under way for improved

solutions. States have an obligation and responsibility to ensure, from the earliest phases of their nuclear programmes, that appropriate options are provided for the management and disposition of nuclear fuel and that using nuclear power does not create undue burdens or risks for future generations.

19. International research and development programmes are currently carried out to develop innovative nuclear systems, in order to provide increased benefits with respect to economy, safety, waste management and non-proliferation. They can and should bear in mind sustainable development and provide answers to the needs and concerns of society, taking into account the specific situation of each State. The development of new reactor and fuel cycle designs should give due attention to safety, security and proliferation resistance.

National infrastructure for the introduction and development of nuclear energy

20. The responsible and efficient introduction of nuclear power in a country is a major undertaking. To proceed adequately in the framework described above, it must be based on a comprehensive strategy and requires the establishment of appropriate and sustainable national infrastructure to provide the necessary organizational, legal, regulatory, human, technological, industrial and financial framework. To capture the best practices resulting from experience acquired throughout the world, infrastructure guidelines have been developed by IAEA and are well described in its document *Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power*.[4] Such infrastructure is required to ensure the safe, secure, peaceful, efficient and sustainable application of nuclear power for the benefit of the country and the confidence of the international community.

21. The development of the required infrastructure is a national responsibility that cannot be transferred. However, international cooperation can provide valuable support in this undertaking and should be developed to the largest extent possible between interested countries. It is in particular of great value to help train the necessary workforce. The countries submitting this paper are ready to cooperate in the development of necessary infrastructure to support the introduction of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

Furthering the application of nuclear technology to meet energy needs and fulfil article IV

22. The Paris Conference has highlighted that peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be broadly shared to contribute to economic development. International cooperation is therefore central to the development of nuclear energy. As regards bilateral cooperation, many countries are engaged in intense international cooperation through a large number of cooperation agreements.

23. Widespread international cooperation is carried out through various international organizations and programmes, including the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Union and programmes such as those conducted under the Generation IV International Forum and the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor project.

[4] IAEA Nuclear Energy Series NG-G-3.1, 2007.

24. International initiatives have been launched to foster the development of nuclear energy to meet growing energy needs. One such initiative, the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, comprises 25 countries sharing a common vision of the sustainable, safe and secure expansion of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It aims to accelerate the development and deployment of advanced nuclear systems, to facilitate the development of national infrastructure and to establish a reliable fuel assurance framework.

25. The Beijing and Paris Conferences provided the opportunity to review at a high level the status and rising expectations related to nuclear energy and the conditions for its development in developed and developing countries, and to discuss actions to carry forward the current positive momentum.

26. Vendors and buyers have a common interest and responsibility in the sustainable development of nuclear energy. States should encourage them to pursue active exchanges throughout the life cycle of a nuclear power plant.

27. IAEA plays a central role in international cooperation for the application of nuclear energy, according to its statutory objective to "accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world". IAEA programmes provide a key contribution to promoting and fostering the efficient, safe and secure development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes through international cooperation, including:

(a) By providing global energy analyses that contribute to the objective of fostering sustainable development and protecting the environment, and to a greater understanding and a well-balanced picture of the role of nuclear science and technology in a global, sustainable development perspective;

(b) By contributing in that connection to the availability of required sources for financing nuclear projects;

(c) By providing support to its member States for the establishment of their national infrastructure for the introduction and development of nuclear power. The IAEA General Conference has adopted resolutions[5] supporting activities in this area, and IAEA has developed a broad range of services to its member States. Many of them have requested such support, including through technical cooperation projects;

(d) In the continual improvement of nuclear power plant operation, as the principal international forum for the exchange of information and experience in this field among member States and international organizations, such as the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and non-governmental organizations such as the World Association of Nuclear Operators;

(e) In promoting improvements and advances in nuclear power, fuel cycle and waste technology, in particular through the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles;

(f) In the continual improvement of nuclear safety through the development of safety standards and the review processes of international conventions and cooperative programmes;

[5] GC(49)/RES/12.G, GC(50)/RES/13.B.2 and GC(51)/RES/14.B.1.

(g) In promoting high-level exchanges on and assessment of the contribution of nuclear power to the satisfaction of energy needs, in particular through high-level conferences.

28. In response to the numerous requests received from States interested in starting a nuclear power programme, IAEA also provides major support on energy planning and the evaluation of energy options, in the evaluation of needs and requirements of these States and in the establishment of appropriate technical, human, legal and administrative infrastructure for the development of nuclear power.

29. The Technical Cooperation Programme of IAEA is a key vehicle to provide broad support to developing member States with respect to nuclear power and other applications.

30. Another key issue for international cooperation is how best to provide a framework for the development of nuclear energy applications in a safe, secure and proliferation-resistant manner while reflecting economic reality and the real needs of the recipient countries. With respect to assurances of supply of nuclear fuel and services, in order to complement the high level of security already provided by current market mechanisms, customers should be provided with long-term nuclear fuel supply arrangements, and international efforts should be pursued to establish credible multilateral fuel supply assurances. Various proposals for such assurances have recently been developed. An initiative to establish a reserve of low enriched uranium was adopted in 2009 by the IAEA Board of Governors and other proposals are expected to be considered by the Board in the near future.

Conclusion

31. Nuclear applications make a key contribution to sustainable human development objectives through a broad range of benefits in energy supply, food and agriculture, health and medicine and industrial activities.

32. The responsible, sustainable and efficient development of nuclear energy must be carried out in an adequate framework, where safety, security, safeguards and liability are essential elements, and such a framework must be based on effective national infrastructure.

33. Nuclear power has the opportunity to make a major contribution to the satisfaction of national and world energy needs. Beyond being a common undertaking of all States parties to the Treaty, the promotion of the applications of nuclear power is crucial to meeting the challenge of providing sufficient and reliable energy to support the world's sustainable development for the benefit of all. It lies at the very heart of the vision that was the basis for "Atoms for Peace" and for the Treaty.

34. In that context, international cooperation is an essential element of the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, as was foreseen in article IV and supported by strict observance of the obligations contained in articles I, II and III of the Treaty. The countries submitting this paper are committed to engaging in the fullest implementation of article IV. They encourage, support and participate in intense international cooperation to achieve the goals of the Treaty.